

Remarks

Claims 1 and 3-22 are pending in the application.

Claims 12-22 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1 and 3-11 are rejected.

Claims 3 and 7-9 are amended herein

Claim 1 is cancelled

I. Claim Objections

Claims 3-11 were objected to because of an asserted informality – improper use of phrase “the step of”. The Applicants have amended claims 3 and 7-9 to delete the objected-to phrase as suggested by the Office Action. Withdrawal of the objection is accordingly respectfully requested.

II. 35 USC §101 Claim Rejections

Claims 1 and 3-11 were rejected under 35 USC §101 as not falling within one of the four statutory classes of invention. Specifically, the office action suggests that the method claims rejected here must either be tied to another statutory category or transform underlying subject matter. While the Applicants do not agree that the §101 rejection is proper here, they have nonetheless amended independent claim 3 to recite a network structure for carrying out the process of the invention (along with cancellation of independent claim 1). As so amended, the Applicants believe that the claims clearly define statutory subject matter and respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

III. 35 USC §103 Claim Rejections

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Heo *et al.* (US Published Patent Application No. 2003/0035367) in view of Chheda (US Published Patent Application No. 2003/0231586). Claim 1 has been cancelled, and accordingly, this rejection basis is believed to be moot.

IV Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, allowance of the amended claims and passage to issue of the subject application is respectfully requested. If the Examiner should feel that the application is not yet in a condition for allowance and that a telephone interview would be useful, he is invited to contact applicants' undersigned attorney at **908-582-5294**.

Respectfully submitted,

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